

Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility,  
Ten-Stall Garage  
700 feet southwest of Powerhouse  
Great Falls Vicinity  
Cascade County  
Montana

HAER No. MT-95-B

HAER  
MONT  
7-GREFA.V  
2B-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
National Park Service  
P.O. Box 25287  
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

RAINBOW HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY,  
TEN-STALL GARAGE

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I. INTRODUCTION

**Location:** The ten-stall garage is located at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility, which contributes to the significance of the Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District. The garage is 700 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the Rainbow Powerhouse. The Rainbow Facility is located on the Missouri River, two miles northeast of Great Falls, Montana.

**Quad:** Northeast Great Falls, Mont.

**UTM:** Zone 12: 485190 Easting; 5264690 Northing

**Date of Construction:** 1933

**Present Owner:** The Montana Power Company  
40 East Broadway  
Butte, Montana 59701

**Present Use:** Garage

**Significance:** The Great Falls Hydroelectric Facilities Historic District is significant for its association with the industrial development of Montana and the consolidation of most of Montana's electric industry into The Montana Power Company. The district is also associated with John D. Ryan, the promoter of hydroelectric development at Great Falls. The buildings and structures are representative examples of design concepts of the period. The ten-stall garage contributes to the significance of the district.

**Historian:** Mary McCormick and Lon Johnson  
Renewable Technologies, Inc.  
Butte, Montana 59701  
April 1995

## II. ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The ten-stall garage is located at the rear of the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility's operators' camp (see figure 1). Montana Power constructed the ten-stall garage in 1933. Two, two-stall garages were constructed at the same time. The garages were built for the use of residents of the camp.

The wood-frame, ten-stall garage measures 92'-0" x 19'-0" and has a concrete foundation and floor. The shed-roof is covered with new rolled roofing. The walls are sheathed with boards covered with a compressed fiber insulating board and rolled roofing (called "rubberoid" in one company publication). The rolled roofing has an aluminum colored finish.

The only openings in the garage are ten garage doors on the southeast side. The paired, outward-swinging doors are constructed of vertical tongue-and-groove boards. Each door has a surround of 1x4 boards and 1x4 diagonal bracing. The doors are covered with the same rolled roofing as the walls. The doors swing on strap hinges at upper and lower points, and are continuous across the short wall area between each pair of doors.

## III. FUTURE OF THE PROPERTY

The Montana Power Company plans to demolish the ten-stall garage at the Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility (FERC Project No. 2188). In accordance with the continuing management plans for historic Plant Operating Facilities, the Company is sponsoring Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the building.

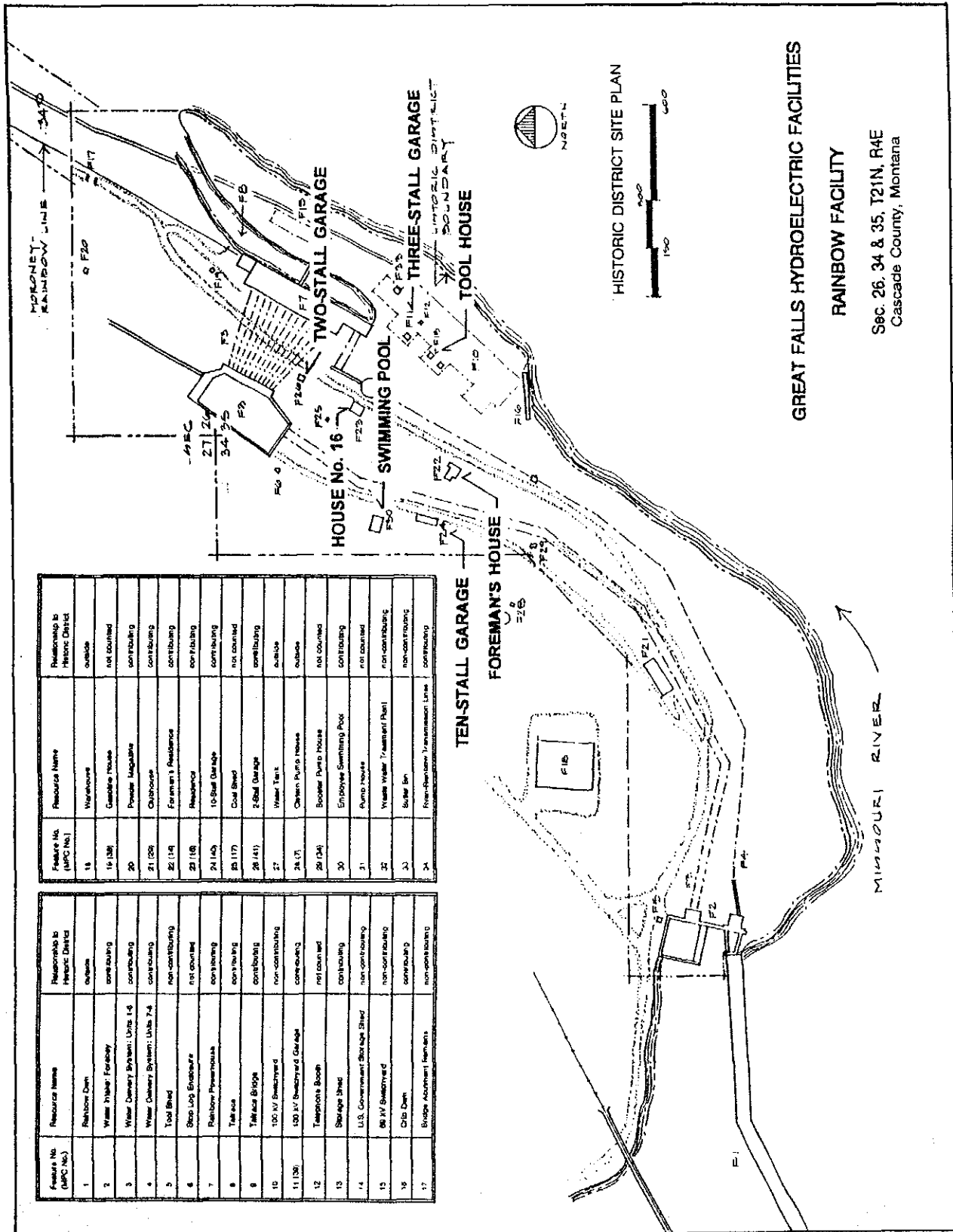


Figure 1. Rainbow Hydroelectric Facility Area Map.